

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Indonesia has various social groups in their social life, such as reggae groups, car lover groups, punker groups, transgender groups, etc. They use language to communicate each other. In every communication, there must be a conversation used for expressing what people want and for making interaction among them. In order to make a good interaction among them, each group has their own way to communicate with their friends in their groups. For example " *Youman...rastavara, jangan bersedih hati mamen*." This example is language used by Reggae groups, whereas this language is not used in other groups or communities. One of the most unique social groups is transgender community. The transgender community is a group of transgender who are in a certain place and area with the same habits and interests. Transgender people themselves mean "individuals of any age or sex whose appearance, personal characteristics, or behaviors differ from stereotypes about how men and women are "supposed" to be." (Currah& Minter, 2000 .p.1) The transgender community also has their own way to communicate each other, for example :

- Guest* : "Halo sayang, Papi lagi horni ni. Mau ga malem ini have fun bareng papi? Nama kamu siapa?"
- Hanny* : "Hanny. Ok pi. mau yang kaya gimana? Oral apa anal? Apa dua duanya?"
- Guest* : "Hello babe, I'm in horny. Would you like to have fun with me? What is your name?"

Hanny : "Hanny. Ok Dear, what would you like to do? Oral, anal, or both?"

The two examples of transgender's conversations above display some of the features in transgender personal dating conversations. Both are the illustrations of how transgender person gives responses to the guest.

When people use language, they do more than just try to get another person to understand the speaker's thought or feelings. At the same time, both people are using language in subtle ways to define their relationship to each other to identify themselves as part of social group and to establish the kind of speech even they are in. (Fasold, 1990, p.1)

In doing conversations, people may use different kinds of language strategies when they talk with different people in different situations. One of those strategies is a politeness strategy. When people communicate, they use politeness strategies to accomplish some functions, such as request, apology, negotiation, refusal, etc. From those functions, the writer will focus only on request function.

Conversation also produces some features that can be used by many people to communicate in order to join the interaction activities among others. One of those features in conversation is known as pre-sequences.

Pre-sequences means certain utterances came before the other utterances which is in the beginning of a conversation (Mey, as cited in Jiunkpe, 2006, p.5)

Levinson (1983, p.345) divides pre-sequences into many types namely: pre-request, pre-invitation, pre-announcement, and pre-arrangement. Sequence is often applied in our interaction with others. Sequences cannot be separated from topic because they are related to one another. Then, pre-sequence also has the important system in arranging and managing the conversation.

Moreover, "pre-sequence can be used for inquiring about status of the speaker or the hearer, status of the situation, accepting and refusing something" (Jiunkpe, 2006, p.2).

In this research, the writer analyzed how transgenders communicate with their guests. The writer is interested to analyze what the pre-sequences they use for making request in conversations with their guests. Pre-sequence is a part of the politeness strategies in Pragmatics field. Therefore, the writer explored more the pre-sequences and to find out the pattern of the pre-sequences they use. The writer sees that this study is very interesting and challenging because transgender's language strategies are uncommon and unique to be heard by people in daily life. As a minority, transgenders have their own strategies to interact in their social lives. Although they are a special group, they also use pre-sequences which are included in the politeness strategies in their conversation in order to reach their goals.

1.2. Field of the Study

The field of this research is Linguistics.

1.3. Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is Pragmatics because this study deals with pre-sequences of making requests in politeness strategy theory. In this study, the writer used Indonesian transcripts of conversations between transgenders and their guests as the objects of this study and collected the data from them. From the transcript, the writer collected the parts of the conversation in which requests are

mentioned. The writer analyzed pre-sequences which are included in the politeness strategies used in making requests that occur in conversations between transgenders and their guests.

1.4. Problem Formulations

The writer attempts to address the following research questions:

1. What are the pre-sequences of making requests used by transgenders to their guests?
2. What are the politeness strategies of making requests used by transgenders to their guests?

1.5. Objectives of the Study

This study is carried out to achieve the following objectives:

1. to describe the pre-sequences of making requests used by transgenders to their guests.
2. to find out the politeness strategies of making requests used by transgenders to their guests.

1.6. Significance of the Study

The writer expects that this study can be a feedback for the readers, particularly the Pragmatics students about the study of pre-sequences which are included in the politeness strategies. This thesis is expected to provide examples

of the application of pre-sequences and politeness strategies in conversations, in that case conversations between transgenders and their guests.

In addition, the writer is sure that the result of this study can add something useful for both the lecturers and students in the Faculty of Letters in Soegijapranata Catholic University. This research is also useful as a reference for the next semester student in making a similar research.

1.7. Definition of Terms

1.7.1. Pre-Sequence

Pre-sequences means that certain utterances come before the other utterances which is in the beginning of a conversation (Mey, as cited in Jiunkpe, 2006, p.4).

1.7.2. Transgender

Transgender people are individuals of any age or sex whose appearance, personal characteristics, or behaviors differ from stereotypes about how men and women are "supposed" to be (Currah & Minter, 2000, p.1).

1.7.3. Request

Request is an illocutionary act whereby a speaker (requester) conveys to a hearer (requestee) that he/she wants the requestee to perform an act which is for the benefit of the speaker (Trosborg, 1994, p.187).

1.7.4. Politeness

Politeness can be defined as the means employed to show awareness for another person's face (Yule, 1996, p.60).

